

## SPEED'S SONG

written for Act 2, Scene 1, of an aborted musical  
version of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at UCSC

words: Tom Lehrer

music: "Torna a Surriento" by Ernesto De Curtis

All day long you whine and whimper,  
Sighing sighs and looking vague,  
Fold your arms and look tormented  
(And) hide as if you had the plague.

War-bl-ing pathetic love songs,  
Tossing in your sleep at night,  
Weeping [sob] --- just as if you'd lost your mother,  
Fasting with no appetite.

Once you used to laugh at lovers  
When they spoke of how it feels,  
Weeping [sob] --- only when you needed money,  
Fasting only between meals.

You may be my master,  
But look how you behave!  
Love is the master now,  
You are the slave.

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from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Act 2, Scene 1

*Valentine*: Go to, sir. Tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?

*Speed*: She that your worship loves?

*Valentine*: Why, how know you that I am in love?

*Speed*: Marry, by these special marks: first, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms like a malcontent, to relish a love-song like a robin-redbreast, to walk alone like one that had the pestilence, to sigh like a schoolboy that had lost his A B C, to weep like a young wench that had buried her grandam, to fast like one that takes diet, to watch like one that fears robbing, to speak puling like a beggar at Halloween. You were wont, when you laughed, to crow like a cock; when you walked, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you looked sadly, it was for want of money. And now you are metamorphosed with a mistress, that when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.

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